

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD), SP

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S VISIT: POSSIBLE TOPICS AND PARTICIPANTS

1. WE ENVISAGE SEPARATE MEETINGS OF PRESIDENT WITH FRANCO, WITH PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, AND WITH PRIME MINISTER ARIAS.

THERE IS LIKELY TO BE SOME REPETITION OR OVERLAPPING IN TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING MEETINGS WITH FRANCO AND ARIAS, WHILE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRINCE WILL PROBABLY BE MORE GENERAL AND SOMEWHAT LESS SUBSTANTIVE.

2. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS STATES HE HAS HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS WITH FONMIN CORTINA BUT THERE HAVE STILL BEEN NO CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECT WITH EITHER FRANCO OR ARIAS. PERINAT STATES MFA WILL PROPOSE THAT TWO TOPICS RELATED TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS BE TAKEN UP AT HIGHEST LEVEL: 1) SPANISH COORDINATION WITH WESTERN SECURITY SYSTEM; AND 2) MODERNIZATION OF SPANISH ARMED FORCES. OTHER POSSIBLE TOPICS WHICH MFA CONSIDERS LIKELY ARE: PORTUGAL, SPANISH POSITION ON DECOLONIZATION OF SAHARA, AND ENERGY POLICY. HE ALSO BELIEVED MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST SITUATION MIGHT COME UP IF TIME ALLOWED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FRANCO'S LONG-STANDING INTEREST AND PRESIDENT'S ENSUING TALKS WITH SADAT.

3. ALTHOUGH HARD TO SAY WITH PRECISION AT THIS POINT HOW THESE ISSUES WOULD BE SHARED BETWEEN FRANCO AND ARIAS, WE BELIEVE THAT FRANCO WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO DEAL WITH ISSUES OF COORDINATION WITH WESTERN DEFENSE AND MILITARY MODERNIZATION IN GENERAL

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TERMS, LEAVING SPECIFICS TO PRIME MINISTER AND FONMIN IN SUB-

SEQUENT MEETINGS. PROBABLY FRANCO WOULD ALSO TOUCH BRIEFLY ON PORTUGAL AND MIDDLE EAST. BESIDES DEFENSE ISSUES, ARIAS WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DETAIL PORTUGAL, SAHARA AND ENERGY MATTERS.

4. SPANISH OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE AT PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH FRANCO WILL PROBABLY BE PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA, AMBASSADOR ALBA AND INTERPRETER. SPANISH ATTENDING MEETING WITH ARIAS WOULD PROBABLY BE CORTINA, ONE OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS (WITHER FINANCE MINISTER CABELLO DE ALBA OR COMMERCE MINISTER JOSE LUIS CERON AYUSO), ARMY MINISTER COLOMA GALLEGOS, NAVY MINISTER PITA DA VEIGA, AIR MINISTER CUADRA MEDINA, UNDER SECRETARY OF FON AFFAIRS ROVIER, AMBASSADOR ALBA AND PERINAT.

5. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, PRINCE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS PROSPECTS FOR SPAIN IN POST-SUCCESSION PERIOD AND HIS ROLE IN IT. SINCE PRINCE HAS BECOME STRONG ADVOCATE FOR MODERNIZATION OF SPANISH MILITARY, HE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS IMPORTANCE FOR SPAIN AND FOR WESTERN DEFENSE OF HAVING MODERN ARMED FORCES. ONLY SPANISH PARTICIPANT IN PRINCE'S MEETING MIGHT BE CORTINA.

6. SPANISH MAY WELL SUGGEST ADDITIONAL TOPICS AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AT UPPER LEVEL. OTHER TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES RELATING TO SPANISH CONCERN OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS U.S. RESTRICTIVE MEASURES MAY COME UP.

7. EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS AS TO POSSIBLE TOPICS PRESIDENT MIGHT USEFULLY RAISE WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGE.
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